



GFRAS Update - August 2021

In this edition of the GFRAS Update

Register now for our introductory training on the "Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP)" extension approach learning model. Initially developed by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), it is now also available as a NELK module!

- Save the date: the GFRAS Annual Meeting announces its dates and topic;
- The Australasia Pacific Extension Network (APEN) opens registration for its 2022 International Conference;
- AFAAS releases an e-booklet with stories from ten of its Country Fora;
- More impact stories from the ground: developing an appropriate career path in agriculture - the example from Australia;
- A Global Good Practice Note on Innovation: how can we support farmers, agri-business and service providers to adapt to an ever-changing environment;
- Showcasing Country Fora: Get to know AADER - la Asociación Argentina de Extensión Rural, the Country Forum in Argentina;

We hope you enjoy this edition of the GFRAS Update!

News from the NELK



Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion - Register now

GFRAS in collaboration with JICA will host a 2-hour virtual introductory training on SHEP as part of the New Extensionist Learning Kit. It will take place on **August 24th** between **10:00 and 12:00 CET/Swiss time**. SHEP is an innovative approach to agricultural extension services that is anchored on the disciplines of economics and psychology. SHEP has been effective in raising smallholder farmers' income from horticulture as it develops both the technical and



Customized NELK modules in Rwanda

GFRAS, in partnership with the Feed the Future Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC) project, has worked on the customization of six existing NELK modules. The process of customization allows existing material to be adapted and/or further developed to suit different contexts. The material can be customized for training in a face-to-face set up, online, or both; or it can be modified to be integrated into mainstream programs or curricula of training institutions. The available modules are currently hosted by CNFA and will be moved to the Rwandan Ministry of

managerial capacity of farmers to practice market-oriented farming. A session not to be missed!

[Register here](#)

Agriculture. These modules can support the development of similar processes in other countries.

[Access the modules](#)

Events



Save the date: 12th GFRAS Annual Meeting

The 12th GFRAS Annual Meeting and its side events will take place virtually between **1 and 3 December 2021**. It will be hosted by IPN in Belgrade, Serbia, via Zoom, with other tools used to promote better interaction amongst the participants.

The topic of this year's meeting will be **"Overcoming COVID-19: How Agroecology can Support RAS, Recovery and Stronger Value Chains"**.

Registration will open at the end of September, stay tuned to the GFRAS communication channels. We are looking forward to welcoming you to these discussions!



APEN Conference: "Facilitating Change and the Opportunity from Disruption"

The Australasia-Pacific Extension Network (APEN) Conference to be held from 9-11 February 2022 will be an international meeting for rural and community advisory practitioners, researchers, and academics who combine the best extension practice and research from developing and developed countries. It is an unmissable opportunity to hear from leading experts, thought leaders, and industry professionals at Melbourne University.

The conference theme 'Facilitating Change and the Opportunity from Disruption' acknowledges the opportunities provided by the COVID pandemic to develop and use new extension techniques. For the first time, the conference will be held as a hybrid event, so that guests can attend either online or in-person. A call for abstracts has also been launched.

Register [here](#)!

Global Good Practice Notes



Innovation Platforms

Farmers, agri-business and service providers have to innovate continuously to adapt to an ever-changing environment (including markets, climate and resources). Innovation is about putting ideas that are new to a certain location into practice, and in this way changing the situation of those living in this area for the better. These "ideas" can be a new way of irrigating a field (i.e. a technology), a new way of organizing women farmers to bulk their produce (i.e. an organizational innovation), or a new policy that supports smallholders in getting bank loans (i.e. an institutional innovation). In agriculture, innovation often involves a combination of these different types of changes.

Read our GGP Note on this topic for more information!

[Access Innovation!](#)

News from the Networks & Partners



AFAAS - Stories from ten Country Fora

The Country Fora (CFs) are building blocks of AFAAS and bring together a wide range of actors and stakeholders involved in or benefitting from agricultural extension and advisory services (AEAS) in a country. They provide mechanisms for the diverse actors – including farmers – to exchange information, share lessons, identify opportunities for providing services to each other, and for innovating for effective services.

Learn more about these lessons and innovations with stories gathered in ten countries in Africa via their Country Fora.

[Access the booklet](#)



How to NOT promote farmer producers organizations - lessons learned

While mobilizing farmers into Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) is an important strategy to double farmers' income, promoting this approach widely without sound planning can lead to exactly the opposite. Thamban C, in this blog, offers several lessons on how to not promote FPOs by drawing experiences with coconut FPOs in Kerala.

Dr Thamban C, is the Principal Scientist in Agricultural Extension from ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), and a member of the Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESAs) network.

[Read more](#)

GFRAS Impact Stories

Australia's Great Barrier Reef is the largest living structure on Earth. The ecosystem supports a rich biodiversity, but is facing numerous challenges to its survival, including climate change, ocean acidification and pollution. Runoff of sediment, nitrates and pesticides from farms in the catchment area is a key issue, but farmers currently lack an effective agricultural extension service.

In response to the need for better advice on more sustainable options, the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce in collaboration with Australia-Pacific Extension Network (APEN), the regional GFRAS Network, initiated a project in 2018 to improve the delivery of extension services through better coordination of actors and a clearer career pathway for extension professionals.

The key strategy is to build experience and support networking through a work placement programme. This will attract new trainees and ensure continuity of service in the years ahead. The trainees undergo year-long work placements in suitable host organisations, where they receive relevant technical training and personal mentoring from experienced advisers. The programme has provided an effective pathway for people coming into the industry to develop their skills and APEN has now plans to further develop its mentorship programme.

Country Fora Showcase: AADER



Asociación Argentina de Extensión Rural

The Argentine Association of Rural Extension (AADER) is a non-profit organization founded in 1983, whose purpose is the integral development of rural extension in Argentina. Since then, it has been continuously carrying out different actions aimed at improving Rural Extension in the country, serving also as a meeting and discussion forum for extensionists.

From 2015, RELASER - the Latin American GFRAS regional network - is associated with AADER to energize its activity in Argentina, taking advantage of this instance of debate and articulation around rural extension already positioned.

Together, and amongst other objectives, AADER as RELASER Forum offers a permanent forum for the technical treatment of problems related to the exercise of extension functions, their achievements, and limitations, and continuously works for its improvement.

[Visit AADER](#)

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